

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-7, 9-21, and 30-53 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 20, and 38 are independent.

Applicants have added new Claims 38-53 to afford themselves a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification and Drawings, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below. New Claims 52 and 53 correspond to withdrawn Claims 34 and 35.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12 and 21 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over Ranu et al. for the reasons discussed on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 1-3 and 6-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takeya et al. for the reasons discussed on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

The Examiner kindly indicated that claims 4, 5 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof. In particular the features of Claim 4 have been incorporated into Claim 1, and the features of Claim 5 have been incorporated into independent Claim 38.

In light of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be addressed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard P. Bauer/
Attorney for Applicants
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
2900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20007-5188